

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAL-01 OIC-02 /150 W  
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P R 151607Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6360

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS LISBON 1657

USUN FOR LOS DEL AMBASSADOR RIDGEWAY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFISN OCON, PLOS, PO

SUBJ: SUB-COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION WITH  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH FISHERIES,  
LISBON, MARCH 8-12, 1976

SUMMARY: SUBJECT MEETING WAS USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR DEBATE ON  
THE FUTURE STATUS AND FUNCTIONS FOR FAO COMMITTEE ON  
FISHERIES (COFI). ONLY CONSENSUS REACHED WAS THAT COFI SHOULD REMAIN  
WITHIN FAO. OPINION WAS DIVIDED AS TO WHETHER COFI SHOULD BE  
STRENGTHENED WITHIN ITS CURRENT FRAMEWORK OR BE ESTABLISHED BY  
A CONVENTION UNDER ARTICLE XIV OF THE FAO CONSTITUTION.  
END SUMMARY.

1. SUBJECT COMMITTEE CONCLUDED MEETING AS SCHEDULED 12 MARCH.  
SESSION ATTENDED BY 19 MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEE AND NINE  
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL FISHERY BODIES ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE OF

FRAMEWORK OF FAO (ICNAF, IWC, IHPEC, IPHC, ICES, ETC.),  
AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM UN AND OBSERVER FROM OECD.

2. SESSION WAS OPENED BY F.E. POPPER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL (FISHERIES) AND WELCOMED BY PEDRO COELHO, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES. DR. M. RUIVO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROTECTION OF LIVING AQUATIC RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, WAS ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN.

3. DISCUSSIONS OF FIRST FEW DAYS DIRECTED TO IDENTIFICATION OF CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO EFFECTIVE STUDY, USE, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERY RESOURCES UNDER VARIOUS CONDITIONS, TYPES OF ACTIONS THAT PERHAPS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND THE EXISTING MECHANISMS AND RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT THESE ACTIONS. PURPOSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WAS TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF ACTIVITIES AND ROLES THAT THE FAO DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, FAO REGIONAL BODIES AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE COMMITTEE OF FISHERIES (COFI) COULD PERFORM IN RAPIDLY CHANGING STRUCTURE OF THE WORLD FISHERIES.

4. THERE WAS ACTIVE DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY COFI. THE SUB-COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FISH AS FOOD AND INCREASING CONTRIBUTION OF FISH TO PROTEIN PRODUCTION IN FUTURE YEARS THAT COFI SHOULD CONTINUE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF FAO AND BE SERVICED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS INDISPENSABLE THAT AN INTERGOVERNMENT BODY OF ADEQUATE STATURE BE MAINTAINED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF FAO. AS EXPECTED, THERE WERE TWO OPPOSING VIEWS EXPRESSED ON FUTURE STRUCTURE OF COFI.

5. MANY DELEGATIONS (E.G. U.S., CANADA, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN, INDIA, WEST GERMANY) FAVORED MAINTAINING COMMITTEE AS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE FAO COUNCIL AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED UNDER ARTICLE V. THEY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT REVITALIZATION OF COFI COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER ITS PRESENT BROAD TERMS OF REFERENCE BY REDEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS; THAT MERELY RESTRUCTURING COFI WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE A MEANS TO AN END IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS OR

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INADEQUACIES PRESENTLY ATTRIBUTED TO COFI SINCE SUCCESS OF ANY ORGANIZATION DEPENDED ON WILL OF MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS WORK TO MAKE ORGANIZATION A SUCCESS; THAT THE LOS CONFERENCE HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS WORK AND IT WAS THEREFORE PREMATURE TO PREDICT WHAT NEW FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD DEVOLVE UPON COMMITTEE.

6. OTHER DELEGATIONS (E.G. PORTUGAL, POLAND, KENIA, SPAIN, NORWAY) FAVORED RESTRUCTURING COFI AS ARTICLE XIV BODY WHICH WOULD GIVE IT MORE INDEPENDENT STATUS WITH WIDER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY WITH OWN FINANCING. CHANGE IN STATUS WOULD ALSO PRESENT OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FULL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEE. AMONG OTHER REASONS, IT WOULD ALSO MATCH STATUS OF OTHER BODIES (I.E. IOC, IMCO) CONCERNED WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF OCEAN AFFAIRS.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SECRETARIATE WOULD PREPARE ON TABULAR FORM A COMPILATION OF SUGGESTIONS MADE REGARDING THE FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE OF COFI AND OTHER RELEVANT MATERIAL FOR SUBMISSION TO NEXT SESSION OF COFI AS YET UNDECIDED.  
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